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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

EUROPEAN SERVICE

On May 15, nine enrolled nurses sailed on the *Duca D'Aosta* for Genoa to proceed through Italy to Austria, relieving those returning home after nine months' service. Owing to disturbed conditions there was a few days' delay in Italy. On May 29, however, they were able to set out for Austria, traveling through Switzerland, and on arrival will be assigned to duty in Vienna and Budapest. This group was made up from Minnesota, New York, Indiana, Georgia and West Virginia, and four of the group speak German. Clodia Johnson of Indianapolis, who was selected to act as supervising nurse during the journey, is a graduate of the Grant County Hospital, Marion, Indiana, class of 1902. She has held posts as chief nurse in Fordham Hospital, Bronx, New York; Northwestern Hospital for the Insane; has had a post-graduate course at Bellevue and Allied Hospitals; and when she volunteered for service in Europe, was superintendent of the Schneck Memorial Hospital, Seymour, Indiana. Caroline E. Bill of Buffalo, New York, is a graduate of the Buffalo General Hospital, class of 1914, speaks, reads and writes German, and since graduation has been engaged in private nursing. Mathilda M. Sturtzer of Buffalo, New York, is a graduate of the German Hospital, Buffalo, class of 1909. She was night supervisor of the German Hospital for one year, has done private nursing, district and settlement work, and speaks German. Mary M. Bowen, of Indiana, is a graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital, Indianapolis, class of 1902. Clifford Geffcken, of Savannah, Georgia, is a graduate of the Paterson General Hospital, Paterson, New Jersey, class of 1903. She has done hospital work, private surgical nursing, and social service work in Baltimore and Savannah. W. Louise Kochert, of Wheeling, West Virginia, is a graduate of the City Hospital Training School, Wheeling, class of 1909. She was head nurse seven months in the operating room of this hospital after graduation, was also head nurse in the Ohio Valley General Hospital, Wheeling, and speaks German. Anna B. Davis of Utica, New York, is a graduate of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, Syracuse, class of 1909. She has held a position as night

supervisor at the Crouse Irving Hospital, has done more than a year of visiting nurse work, and four months' post-graduate work at the Sloane Maternity Hospital, New York City. Alice J. Philipp of New York City, is a graduate of the Utica General Hospital, class of 1913. She speaks German and until she went to Europe was engaged in Public Health and Infant Welfare Work at the Henry Street Settlement. C. Adelaide Madsen of Minneapolis, is a graduate of the University Hospital, class of 1912. She has spent some time since graduation in this hospital, a part of the time in the operating room and she was also superintendent of the New England Hospital, North Dakota, for a year.

The German Empress has recently, through Ambassador Bernsdorff, sent to the American Red Cross a letter of thanks for supplies sent and mentions also the services rendered by the American delegation of five doctors and twenty-two nurses who, she says, have been doing splendid work in Silesia since last October.

Recent reports from Serbia bring the welcome assurance that all our nurses are well and point to an abatement in the epidemic of typhus. Margaret Lehman and Anna Lofving who, with Dr. Kirby Smith, medical director, went to Serbia from Pau, France, some months ago to aid in caring for those ill with typhus, are now on their way home, due to arrive in this country early in June. Of the unit who sailed early in September to go to Serbia, and who have since been on duty at Belgrade, Augusta M. Condit, Nell F. Steel, Esmee Everard, and Stella M. Hall have returned home. Mathild Krueger, Mary Seihrs, Teresa I. Curley, Maud Ellis, Wilhelmina Weyhing of Detroit, Michigan, Mary D. Cox of Montclair, New Jersey; Eva Pearl Canfield of New Hampshire; Clara Tulloss and Clara Slusher of Kansas City, Missouri, who went with the second and third Servian Units returned early in May. A letter recently received at Red Cross Headquarters from Sir Thomas Lipton, who has visited Serbia several times since the beginning of the war tells of a visit to the hospital at Ghevgegi, where our second and third Servian Units were stationed on their arrival in Serbia. He praises the courage and cheerfulness of our surgeons and nurses in facing hardships and the danger of exposure to disease, comparing them to the soldier on the battlefield.

AMERICAN SERVICE

Late in March, owing to serious fighting across the border in Mexico and the impossibility of preventing wounded refugees seeking shelter in Texas, it was necessary to open a temporary hospital in Browns-

ville, Texas. The local committees on Red Cross Nursing Service in Dallas, Houston and El Paso were called upon and seven enrolled nurses reported promptly for duty. Antoinette Alschier of Dallas, was appointed by the chairman of the National Committee to act as supervisor. She is a graduate of the John Sealy Hospital, connected with the University of Texas at Galveston, and has held positions in several hospitals in Texas as well as in Dr. Kelly's Sanitarium in Baltimore. Miss Alschier did excellent service as supervisor of this Red Cross detachment. The enrolled nurses sent from Dallas were, in addition to Miss Alschier, Katherine Ott, Katherine Justice, Sonora Ponder; from Houston, Mrs. Lydia Drouet and Harriet May; from El Paso, Jessie M. Burt. They were assigned to duty late in March and the last two returned to their homes May 17, having cared for two hundred and twelve serious cases with many major operations. A letter commending the work of the nurses has been received at headquarters from the physician in charge of the hospital in which he says they did splendid work and deserve a great deal of credit.

UNIFORMS

The grey crepe material which has been adopted by the Red Cross is now available and can be purchased in bolts of twenty yards each, thirty inches wide, for \$3 plus postage or express, or the uniforms made up in standard sizes will be supplied for \$2 each. It is desirable that all Red Cross nurses provide themselves with at least two uniforms, which can be worn whenever assigned to duty by the Red Cross. The uniform will gradually come to be recognized as the Red Cross nurse's uniform and the Service will be far more distinctive than has been the case heretofore. Further information can be obtained from the chairman or secretary of local committees or from the chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, Washington, D. C.

TOWN AND COUNTRY NURSING SERVICE

BY FANNIE F. CLEMENT, R.N.

On the fortieth anniversary of their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schiff of New York made a generous gift to the Town and Country Nursing Service of \$5000, to be used as a loan fund for nurses who wish to take a post-graduate course in preparation for visiting nursing in small towns and rural districts. Thus eligible candidates need not be deprived of a special preparation in public health work because of financial reasons. The loan fund may be utilized for a four or eight months'

course without interest and payable upon liberal terms. Through Mr. Schiff's previous endowment, the organization of the Town and Country Nursing Service by the Red Cross was made possible, and for this additional expression of his interest and assistance, all are deeply grateful. While the minimum requirement is four months, including both theoretical and practical training, experience of the past few years has demonstrated the advisability of nurses having even a longer preparation for visiting nursing in the smaller communities, where the responsibilities devolving upon the nurse working alone are considerable. Thus emphasis is being placed upon the eight months courses offered in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland, and it is encouraging to note that nurses seem to be realizing more generally the value of this special preparation, to which the increasing number of applicants bears evidence. It is expected that courses including academic instruction will materialize before long in Colorado and Tennessee.

At the third meeting of the Conference of Mountain Workers, held in Knoxville, April 21-22, a half day was given over to discussion of health questions. The number in attendance was but a little over one hundred, yet all represented some field of active service within the 216 counties comprising the Southern Highlands, and representing a population of three and one-half millions. Visiting nursing is known in this entire section largely through the few denominational and other private schools employing nurses, and the few others workers who, like Lydia Holman, have done much for the mountain people. These centers for neighborhood work feel keenly the need for visiting nursing, but the problem of financing such service is a peculiarly difficult one. The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions has recently engaged a Red Cross visiting nurse for its field in the mountains of North Carolina, where she is located twelve miles from the railroad. During the conference, Dr. McBrayer, of the North Carolina State Board of Health, spoke of the twenty-one all-time county health officers in that state, their special training for their work and the salaries of \$2500 paid these officers, making it possible to command the services of qualified physicians. Now the question of visiting nurses, he said, was under consideration by the board. As North Carolina contains few large cities, rural nursing will meet the general need. Mr. J. C. Falkner, executive secretary of the W. G. Raoul Foundation, spoke of his plans for beginning the crusade against tuberculosis in Georgia, for which this foundation is established. An executive, or supervisory nurse, is to assist in the organization of local groups for the employment of visiting nurses. Here, also, will be a field for the rural nurse.

A special session on public health was called during the Conference

of Education and Industry, held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 27-30, as this topic did not appear on the regular program. This meeting was attended largely by members of the Woman's Clubs and such topics as the all-time health officer, vital statistics, social hygiene and the standardization of nursing, were discussed. A resolution was passed, among others, to advocate Red Cross visiting nursing throughout Tennessee. It is hoped the women of the state will act upon this suggestion, as very little public health nursing exists in this section. A special plea was made by the nurses present at the Conference that the club women assist in establishing and maintaining high standards for hospital training schools throughout the South, as well as for public health nursing.

A new exhibit has been prepared by the Town and Country Nursing Service which made its first appearance at the Chattanooga Conference. It consists of thirteen frames, 2 by 2½ feet each, which tell by means of pictures and legends of the activities of the visiting nurse in rural communities and small towns. Most of the pictures were supplied by Red Cross visiting nurses. The frames are conveniently packed in a portable trunk for shipping. The exhibit is loaned to smaller communities wishing to create an interest in public health nursing. No charge is made for its use, but the communities are expected to be responsible for its safe keeping and to meet the cost of transportation.

A county board of supervisors in Michigan has affiliated with the Red Cross, and a town council in another state. A political body, perhaps with little concern for nursing standards or the professional qualifications of the nurse employed, needs such an affiliation in order that these standards may be guaranteed. Too often we find the non-graduate, or nurse with inferior training, appointed for this important work by a government body, because it fails to appreciate the importance of adequate training. A well equipped nurse, responsible to government officers who do not comprehend the scope of public health nursing, is soon apt to discover that nothing more is expected of her than to serve as a bedside nurse altogether or as an investigating or reporting agency. Connection with the Red Cross in such instances should make her able to direct more successfully the broader development of her nursing activities.